

**MINUTES OF THE  
PUBLIC EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE**  
Thursday, July 17, 2003 – 1:00 p.m. – Room 131 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Thomas Hatch, Senate Chair  
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway, House Chair  
Sen. Ron Allen  
Sen. Karen Hale  
Sen. Bill Wright  
Rep. David N. Cox  
Rep. Margaret Dayton  
Rep. Karen W. Morgan

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Parley G. Hellewell  
Rep. James R. Gowans  
Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff  
Rep. Gordon E. Snow

**Staff Present:**

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or by contacting the committee secretary, Glenda Whitney, at 538-1032.

**1. Task Force Business**

Chair Holdaway called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m. He excused Sen. Hellewell, Rep. Gowans, Rep. Shurtliff, and Rep. Snow from attending the meeting.

**MOTION:** Sen. Hatch moved to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2003 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Wright absent for the vote.

**2. Appropriation for Class Size Reduction**

Mr. Patrick Ogden, Utah State Office of Education, distributed a handout, "FY 1999 - FY 2004 (Projected) Class Size Reduction Program." He gave a slide presentation and discussed issues related to the appropriation for class size reduction. He proposed transferring class size reduction monies into a new block grant, the Remediation and Interventions for Student Success Block Grant.

Supt. Steven O. Laing, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, USOE (Utah State Office of Education), responded to questions from the Committee and discussed the proposal.

**MOTION:** Sen. Hatch moved to ask the USOE to prepare draft language to move class size reduction monies into the Remediation and Interventions for Student Success Block Grant, and include the Utah School Boards Association and Utah School Superintendents Association input in preparing the draft language. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Wright absent for the vote.

Mr. Ralph Haws, Utah School Boards Association, explained that the data shows the number one goal of patrons is to reduce class size and noted that smaller class size will have an impact on improving writing skills.

Supt. Kirk Wright, Juab School District Board, explained that what is needed is more flexibility, more revenue resources, and more accountability.

Ms. Susan Kuziak, Utah Education Association, acknowledged the need to target resources for the children who are most in need of assistance but expressed concern with shifting class size reduction monies to accomplish that.

### **3. Teacher Preparation and Development Programs**

Mr. Ray Timothy, Utah State Office of Education, gave a slide presentation and explained that the federal legislation, "No Child Left Behind," requires new elementary school teachers to pass a comprehensive test before employment. He described the test and the steps necessary to administer it in Utah.

Ms. Rebecca Anderson, and Ms. Gail Johnson, Utah State Office of Education, assisted Mr. Timothy with the slide presentation.

Ms. Anderson distributed handouts, "Entry Years Enhancement, Utah's Support and Enhancement Program for Level 1 Teachers," and "Rule R277-522. Entry Years Enhancements (EYE) for Quality Teaching - Level 1 Utah Teachers." She reviewed the new requirements imposed by the State Board of Education to advance from a Level 1 educator license to a Level 2 license.

Ms. Johnson distributed handouts, "Summary of Praxis II Subject Assessment and Specialty Area Tests," and "Tests that will be reviewed." She explained the content of the tests and the standard setting study.

Dr. Alan Hofmeister asserted that teacher preparation programs and tests need to be better aligned with one another.

Mr. Rob Kertesz, Jordan School District, expressed concern with mentoring practices and the necessity for more funding for the program.

Mr. Haws discussed the mentoring program in the Jordan School District.

Mr. Gary Cameron, Utah School Superintendents Association, expressed concern with teachers in rural schools not being able to meet the federal "highly qualified" teacher standards. Some rural school teachers are asked to teach four or five different subjects.

### **4. Other Items / Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Cox moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Hatch absent for the vote. Chair Holdaway adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.